

Standards, they did some of this, and you made reference to one particular one, the care and upkeep of the home, I believe.

Mr. JENSEN. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. And then you said there was considerable industry objection to this. I know obviously you were not there then but—

Mr. JENSEN. I know the story quite well. This is a little booklet, 5 by 8, and perhaps a half inch thick, that resulted from our work in building technology. It was written specifically for the consumer. It told you if you had a window leak or you had a short or you wanted to look at the plumbing, step by step what to do, including seeking professional advice.

To say the least, this was a best seller in Government. I do not know how many tens of thousands of copies were sold, but many of them. At one point, one of the major publishing companies made it clear that the publication could be developed and sold by private industry, that it was completely improper for the Government to do it.

On the basis of that, this policy was issued which said we would do it no more.

Mr. MYERS. Actually it did not come from any undue criticism the public was bringing against the industry; it was just—they felt it was just unfair competition?

Mr. JENSEN. Exactly.

Mr. MYERS. Fine. Also on page 5 you make reference to the mandatory standards provided for by law, and you use some examples there of the flammable materials for clothing, and also the doors for refrigerators that you mentioned.

Mr. JENSEN. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. And once again the agency brings this—is that right—to your attention that they want you to test a particular line of clothing?

Mr. JENSEN. No; these two standards have been mandated by the Congress. In the case of flammable fabrics, Congress, in the statute, references what was a voluntary standard, which fixed the limitations with respect to flammability of fabrics in wearing apparel.

Our job is a technical job, to keep aware of technology in this field and to advise the Congress as to the need, the advisability, of amending the statute. As you know, there is a bill before the Congress right now in which the administration has recommended rather strong amendments. Incidentally, the enforcement of this act lies with the Federal Trade Commission, not with the Department of Commerce.

The refrigerator door closures law resulted, of course, from children being smothered in refrigerators that had been discarded. Here again our job was to determine technically what was needed in order to make it possible for a youngster caught inside a refrigerator to get out.

So we wrote the technical standards, after much consultation with the industry and full cooperation. As far as we know, every household refrigerator now is well within the standards.

Mr. MYERS. Here again your job here was procedural rather than actually going out and making tests?

Mr. JENSEN. Exactly.

Mr. MYERS. You do not carry out the testing?

Mr. JENSEN. We conducted the test necessary to fix the standards, but we do not conduct enforcement tests.